



March Board Meeting
Friday, March 11, 2022 – 8:30 AM
FDOT District 7
11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT

Commissioner Reggie Bellamy
City of Tampa Alternate John Dingfelder (virtual)
Commissioner Rene Flowers
Secretary David Gwynn
Commissioner Jeff Holcomb
Jim Holton
Commissioner Pat Kemp
Commissioner Janet Long
Cliff Manuel, Jr
Nicole Mills – FDOT District 1 Representative
Commissioner Kimberly Overman
Commissioner Kathryn Starkey
Mayor Ken Welch
Executive Director David Green
Legal Counsel Jennifer Cowen

ACTION ITEMS

Approve October 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Long to approve the October, November, and February Board meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Holcomb.

Motion passed 8-0

CY 2022 Meeting Calendar

David Green presented an updated Board meeting calendar, which reflects comments made at the February Board meeting. The July meeting location was changed from Hernando to Hillsborough based on the desire for all meetings to occur in Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties. The August meeting date was also changed from August 19 to August 26.

Commissioner Overman made a motion to approve the updated calendar but would like for the calendar notice to reflect that members notify staff at least 48 hrs in advance of their intent to attend physically. Seconded by Commissioner Starkey.

Motion passed 8-0

City of Tampa CAC Appointment: Brandie Miklus

Motion made by Commissioner Overman to affirm Brandie Miklus' appointment to the CAC. Seconded by Commissioner Flowers.

Motion passed 8-0

Executive Director Compensation

Commissioner Flowers commented that the Finance Committee previously approved a 3% salary increase for the Executive Director.

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Overman. Seconded by Commissioner Flowers.

Motion passed 8-0

USF Research and Technical Assistance Master Agreement

Brian Pessaro provided information regarding a master agreement with USF. TBARTA entered a 2-year agreement in February 2020 for as-needed research and technical assistance. Staff recommends a new agreement to continue services. Brian further explained that any work performed by CUTR would involve task work orders that are subject to procurement policies. Anything below \$50,000 could be approved by the Executive Director.

- Commissioner Long commented that it is odd to use CUTR if the legislature also uses CUTR. She asked if it is not a conflict of interest.
- Commissioner Flowers commented that while the State utilizes CUTR, another entity also using CUTR for services is separate from the State. Commissioner Flowers suggested deferring the question to Legal Counsel.
- Commissioner Long asked Secretary Gwynn if there is a benefit to having a group outside of Tampa Bay that could be used.
- Commissioner Flowers commented that USF's research work in the area recently provided them with \$50M from the State to continue research efforts, however, utilizing a different group in the future may not be out of the question.

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- Chair Manuel asked for Legal Counsel to advise if there is a conflict of interest. Legal counsel advised that while she does not know the specific relationship between CUTR and the State, it is common for the legislature and municipalities to utilize the same vendors.
- Commissioner Overman commented that CUTR is used in the Tampa Bay region for many projects. CUTR often shows courage in speaking to things local leaders may not feel comfortable with. There is some hesitancy that has been Board driven rather than CUTR driven. Commissioner Overman encourages continuing the relationship with CUTR.
- Commissioner Long will provide information to Legal Counsel to avoid further discussion at the present meeting.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Overman. Seconded by Commissioner Flowers. Commissioner Long opposed.

Motion passed 7-1

Pinellas Aerial Gondola Feasibility Study Contract Renewal

Brian Pessaro provided an update on the SCJ Alliance contract which will expire in April. The agreement includes options to renew for two additional one-year periods. Staff recommends authorizing the Executive Director to execute the first one-year renewal option in order to complete the study. SCJ Alliance anticipates finishing the study by Summer 2022.

- Commissioner Flowers asked if the scope of work has changed. Will the City of Clearwater be the focus of the study, or will it require more coordination with the City of St. Petersburg?
- Brian advised that the Clearwater corridor is a better fit for the gondola study. The St. Petersburg work will end with the SWOT analysis that was recently completed.
- Commissioner Long asked for clarification on whether that will be the choice regardless of the 41-mile plan that was originally proposed.
- Brian clarified that the City of St. Petersburg was skeptical of how the aerial gondolas will make sense Downtown. Mayor Kriseman and Mayor Welch were both briefed.
- Commissioner Long asked what the data shows. Brian advised that all corridors in the study can work, but there is a question of priority.
- Mayor Welch feels there should be more community input. Mayor Welch asked if this would be a 4-street alignment. Brian clarified that an East/West alignment would be along 5th Ave S, south of Tropicana Field, from the Warehouse District to 1st St. The North/South alignment

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would take commuters toward the Pier. The visual impact could be a real issue for the neighborhood.

- Mayor Welch commented that there has been a significant amount of pushback against the SunRunner BRT and it is something that has been discussed for a decade.
- Chair Manuel asked for clarification on what the plan is moving forward with the study. Brian responded that Staff would continue the study in Clearwater.
- Brian advised that staff has met with the Downtown Partnership and Chamber of Commerce and both were skeptical.
- Commissioner Flowers advised that there is a greater part of South St. Petersburg that has been left out of the study.
- Chair Manuel commented that there should be a meeting with Staff and Mayor Welch to further discuss the goal of the aerial gondola study.
- Commissioner Flowers commented that even though TBARTA has worked on this for years, more steps can be taken to communicate with community members. Everyone in the community does not communicate with the Chamber of Commerce or other organizations. Many constituents may not know enough about the study.
- Mayor Welch concurred with Commissioner Flowers. Mayor Welch advised that the aerial gondola study was never mentioned in any meetings during his campaign. He believes the community was simply unaware.
- Commissioner Holcomb commented that City of St. Petersburg may not be the best fit for an aerial gondola. If this were to work in the City of St. Petersburg, it would be for the business community and working community. Commissioner Holcomb agrees that Clearwater may be a better fit.
- Brian advised that staff met with the St. Petersburg Downtown Neighborhood Association and they wondered what problem a gondola is meant to solve. Clearwater understands that their problem is the Causeway. St. Petersburg's feedback is this is a solution in search of a problem.
- Jim Holton advised that Clearwater ridership would be greater due to tourism and the beaches. St. Petersburg was a secondary look for a demonstration project. From a business perspective, St. Petersburg was a second choice. This would be perfect in Clearwater.

Commissioner Flowers moved to approve the contract extension. Seconded by Commissioner Overman.

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Motion passed 8-0

Commuter Vanpool Services Contract Amendment

Ken Boden provided an update on the Commuter Vanpool Services Contract Amendment. The agreement with Enterprise includes options to renew for three one-year periods. The Governing Board previously approved two renewals. Staff recommends exercising the third and final renewal option, which will continue from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023. No changes are recommended.

Motion to approve by Commissioner Overman. Seconded by Commissioner Holcomb.

Motion passed 8-0

INFORMATION ITEMS

Office Lease

David Green provided an update of the new office lease. Staff will vacate the current office this summer. A draft lease was provided to Legal Counsel, who provided comments that were returned to the broker and landlord. A final draft lease will likely be brought to the April Finance Committee and Board meetings for consideration.

- Commissioner Long asked how much the lease would cost. David Green replied that the space is \$26.50 per sq ft and would be \$4390 per month.

STAFF REPORTS

Board Attendance Report

David Green explained that a Board Attendance tracker has been added to the Governing Board's packet and will be provided each month.

- Commissioner Kemp commented that the February Board meeting minutes do not reflect she was Present at the February Board meeting.

Commissioner Flowers made a motion to approve the Board Meeting minutes with corrections regarding Commissioner Kemp's attendance. Seconded by Commissioner Starkey.

Motion passed 11-0

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Committee Vacancies

David Green mentioned there were some resignations on the CAC and Staff has been in touch with those respective organizations for new appointments.

OTHER BUSINESS

David Green advised that TPA cannot allow TBARTA to have standing Board meetings at their facility. Staff will continue to rotate unless another centralized location is identified.

- Commissioner Kemp expressed concern about having meetings at TPA because they cannot be livestreamed. Commissioner Kemp also wanted clarification about why the current meeting was not being livestreamed.
- Chris Jadick advised that Staff did not have the capabilities at FDOT to televise.
- Hillsborough TPO and FDOT staff advised that the meeting was being televised if the GoToWebinar link was provided to the public.

Commissioner Holcomb suggested that the most difficult part is to ensure that Staff is utilizing every technology possible to grant meeting access to the public.

- Mayor Welch asked which social media platforms are used to livestream or notify the public of meetings. Will the meetings only be posted on the TBARTA website?
- Chris Jadick responded that staff utilizes YouTube for streaming videos. There are social media followings on Facebook and LinkedIn.
- Commissioner Overman suggested adding a social media report to the Communications Report if it is not already in there.

Commissioner Long requested a legislative update. David Green advised that Federal/State Legislative reports were not on the agenda.

- Secretary Gwynn provided an update that TBARTA has two items in the State budget so far: \$375,000 for agency operations and \$1M for transportation disadvantaged service. He also advised that success with federal discretionary programs will be higher if led by local agencies, as opposed to state agencies.

Commissioner Long commented that Pinellas recently had a transportation workshop which presented big opportunities.

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Commissioner Starkey asked what counties received in appropriations. Secretary Gwynn responded that Pasco County received \$13-\$14M to complete Ridge Road. Hernando and Pasco will be working together to complete County Line Road. Commissioner Overman advised there were some improvements to Gibsonton Road and some grants.

- Commissioner Kemp commented that Hillsborough County received a \$4.9M grant for the first ferry in Tampa Bay. Hillsborough County applied through HART with a \$1.2M match. The big focus for HART is its heavy maintenance facility.

Commissioner Overman requested a presentation at the next Board meeting about the Infrastructure Plan. She also advised that better instruction will come in August about how to fill out applications.

ADJOURNMENT

****NEXT BOARD MEETING****

April 22, 2022 – 10:00 AM

Tampa International Airport, Boardroom Level 3

4100 George J. Bean Parkway

Tampa, FL 33607

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